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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8978
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0302
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 0133
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 0168
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0102
RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN PRIORITY 0025
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY 0153
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0791
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY 0096
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RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1901
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SUBJECT: ITALY ON UNSC BURMA MEETING

REF: SECSTATE 125430

¶1. (C) Poloff met September 12 with MFA Office Director for Southeast Asia Alberto Vecchi to deliver reftel demarche seeking support for travel by UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari to Burma followed by a formal Security Council meeting on Burma.

¶2. (C) Vecchi agreed that the situation in Burma was the most serious since 2003 and said Italy was greatly concerned about the current crackdown. Vecchi noted that the participation of monks in recent protests was a new development, and an important sign of growing popular discontent.

¶3. (C) Vecchi said that Italy was "110 percent behind" efforts to send Special Envoy Gambari to Burma, but the question of a formal Security Council meeting on Burma was more complicated. He said he believed Italy would support such a meeting, but asked why we thought Russia and China would change their positions now on adding Burma to the UNSC agenda. Vecchi said that a second veto could set back Gambari's mission and embolden the junta in Rangoon.
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